

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04333 052030Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /043 W  
-----122455 052033Z /72

P R 051737Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2761  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 4333

AMMAN PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

USIA FOR INA, IOR, IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SIPN - MO  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS, AUG. 5

SUMMARY: LITTLE OPTIMISM AFTER ASSAD'S REJECTION OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. PLO POSITION CONTINUES TO MAKE HEADLINES.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ALL PAPERS REPRODUCE PESSIMISTIC WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB PAPERS FOLLOWING VANCE-ASSAD MEETING AND SYRIAN REJECTION OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. ON GOVERNMENT SIDE, " AL MITHAQ AL WATANI" SAYS THAT SADAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT CREATED AN "ENTANGLEMENT" AND THE ISRAELIS ARE TAKING COMFORT FROM THE PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH "WILL ENABLE THEM TO LET THINGS DRAG ON EVEN LONGER." "U.S. LEADERS HAVE NO DOUBT," PAPER CONCLUDES, " THAT IF THEIR INITIATIVE FAILS, IT WILL LEAD TO A WEAKENING OF THEIR POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST... AND EVEN ENDANGER THEIR ACCESS TO ARAB OIL." "MAROC SOIR" REPRINTS FULL AFP REPORTS ON DAMASCUS TALKS UNDER FIVE-COLUMN HEAD "SYRIA REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUP."

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2. IN OPPOSITION PRESS, ISTIALAL'S "L'OPINION" HEADLINES PLO REACTION TO WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL AND, OBSERVING THAT PLO WOULD BE EXCLUDED, SAYS "PLO PARTICIPATION IN EVERY STAGE OF ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOCIATIONS REMAINS THE MAIN OBSTACLE." "AL ALAM," ALSO ISTIQLAL, FLATLY CALLS VANCE-SADAT MEETINGS "A FAILUREMZ SAME ARTICLE, COMMENTING ON UPCOMING MEETINGS IN AMMAN, CALLS HUSSEIN

"A REACTIONARY" AND TAKES ISSUE WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT "JORDANIANS AND PALESTINIANS ARE ONE PEOPLE." "AL ALAM" ALSO REPRINT USIS- PROVIDED TEXT OF CARTER "TIME" INTERVIEW, UNDER HEADLINE "CARTER EXPLAINS SLIM U.S. HOPES." SOCIALIST "MUHARRIR" REPEATS YESTERDAY'S OBSERVATION THAT DAMASCUS IS VANCE'S MOST DIFFICULT STOP, SAYS "THERE ARE GREAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SYRIAN POSITIONS... AND CHANGE IS IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS THE U.S. DOES NOT PRESSURE ISRAEL TO RESPECT UN RESOLUTIONS." IN COMMUNIST "AL BAYANE" EDITORIALIST ABOU AHMED FINDS THAT AMERICAN OPTIMISM FOLLOWING THE SADAT MEETINGS WAS "RESTRAINED" IN COMPARISON TO EGYPTIAN "EUPHORIA," AND THAT THIS EUPHORIA MAY PROVE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO VANCE

IN ANY CASE, THE EDITORIALIST SAYS, THE WORKING GROUP IDEA WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE START BY EXCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS.  
MOFFAT

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS, AUG. 5 SUMMARY: LITTLE OPTIMISM AFTER ASSAD'S REJECTION OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. PLO POSITION CONTINUES TO MAKE HEA  
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**Review Markings:**  
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